

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2 and 12-17 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 18-21 are allowed. Claims 1, 3-11 and 18-21 are pending in the case. No new matter was added. Reconsideration of the claim is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In paragraph 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 17 was objected to because of informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection and rejection, but in the interest of prosecution have canceled claims 12-17 and believe the objection and rejection are now moot. Therefore, in view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the objection and rejection.

In paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Niamir (US 2002/0027567). However, in paragraph 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-8, 10 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants traverse the rejection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution has amended claim 1 to overcome the rejection by incorporating the limitations of objected to claim 2 into claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable. Because claims 3-11 depend from claim 1, and include the features recited in the independent claim, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-11 are also patentable over the cited references. Nevertheless, Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the Office Action's rejection with respect to such dependent claims and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

In paragraph 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 18-21 were allowed. Applicants thank Examiner for the allowance.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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